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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 20 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the text of a Decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex I), the text of a Declaration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex II) and the text of a Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex III).

I would very much appreciate it if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Svetlomir BAEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, issued at Sofia on 15 January 1992

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria recognizes the independence of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our position is based on the approach of equality in treatment of the former Yugoslav republics and the criteria for their recognition adopted by the European Community. By the simultaneous recognition of all four former Yugoslav republics, we reiterate the aspiration of the Republic of Bulgaria to support the democratic process, peace and stability in the Balkans, in conformity with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe.

Annex II

Declaration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, issued at Sofia on 15 January 1992

Today, 15 January 1992, the Republic of Bulgaria decided to recognize the independence of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. This decision was taken in the spirit of the report of the Commission on Arbitration of the European Community, headed by the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of France, Justice Robert Badinter. It is an expression of the principled policy of Bulgaria, which recognizes the right of free and democratic self-determination of all peoples, including their right to establish sovereign and independent States.

Our decision is yet another evidence of Bulgaria's persistent aspiration to act as a stabilizing factor in the Balkans and to contribute to the genuine unification of Europe, based on the principles of international law and the values of democracy. In this, Bulgaria's national interests are fully in harmony with the goals of modern European politics.

Our position is a logical result of our overall attitude towards the crisis west of our borders; it is a position that the Bulgarian State has upheld on many occasions. We are convinced that this decision is an important step to an even closer cooperation with all our neighbours, towards even closer integration within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It is an intrinsic characteristic of our new foreign policy, one that Bulgaria will pursue in the future.

I am convinced that the Bulgarian people and all political forces support the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Annex III

Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria in connection with the decision of the Bulgarian Government on the recognition of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, issued at Sofia on 17 January 1992

In its policy, the Bulgarian Government determines as its main objective the development of good relations with all countries and, naturally, first and foremost with its neighbours. Bulgaria sees it as its special obligation and responsibility towards Europe not to exacerbate but, rather, to assist in the settlement of problems in the Balkan region.

Guided by this understanding, the Bulgarian Government, by its decision on the recognition of the republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, declared once again its will to respect the existing borders and that it has no territorial claims towards any State. This policy conforms with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe.

The recognition of the republics is based on respect of the lawful interests of the people living on their territories, of their legitimate will for State sovereignty, and of their right to determine on their own the relations among themselves and with other States. This has also been the approach adopted by Bulgaria as regards the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Democratic Bulgaria is persistently striving to pursue a European policy in the Balkans; it will carry out its actions in full view of the general positive processes in the continent in which the European Community plays an important role. The Bulgarian Government adopted the European Community's approach of equality in the treatment of the Yugoslav republics and the European Community criteria on their recognition, while also taking notice of the position of the Commission on Arbitration. Future steps towards the establishment of diplomatic relations with the republics will be made in conformity with the decisions to be made within the framework of the European Community.

The Bulgarian Government believes that such a position will contribute to stability in the Balkans as part of a new Europe.